

REMARKS

The invention is a method of obtaining connection to a packet data network and a system. In accordance with the invention, a user 12 inputs a request to a first network 10 which requests that the user be authorized for connection to the packet data network 14 through a second work 16 with the connection being paid for by the first network making payment to the second network. The user request and an authorization of payment is transmitted from the first network 10 to the second network 16 to pay for user's access to the packet data network 14. A requirement for the payment to be made for the connection to the packet data network is the result of communications which first originate with the user request to the first network. See the first paragraph of the Summary of the Invention wherein the "purchase communications" are described. Network authentication information, which may be a unique random number RAND, a signed response RES, and a cipher key Kc, is used to grant the user authentication to obtain connection through the second network 16 to packet data network 14. The authentication information is transmitted from the first network 10 to the user 12 which informs the user that authentication to obtain connection to the packet data network 16 has been obtained. Furthermore, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the second network debits when the user roams in the second network from a stored value of service units maintained by the second network, which have been granted to the user, a number of consumed units which are identified in each request for consumption of at least one service unit until the number of consumed service units equals the number of granted service units. The user is anonymous and there is no roaming agreement or contract with the packet data network for the user to obtain the connection thereto.

Prior to the invention, as described in the specification under the "Description of the Prior Art", a problem existed when a user wished to obtain service from a packet data network while remaining anonymous or where there was no roaming agreement (unlike Rai et al) permitting the user to be billed while roaming from the user's home network to the second network and through which the user is connected to the packet data network. This situation required alternative billing arrangements to which the invention is addressed. See the first full paragraph on page 2 of the specification.

The independent claims have been amended to recite that "the user is anonymous and there is no roaming agreement or contract with the packet data network for the user to obtain connection thereto." These amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner, in the Response to Arguments, makes the assertion that "however, the Applicants claims do not include the words anonymous or contract or contractual nor agreement nor roaming agreement nor prior nor new nor billing". The amendment of the claims is believed to exclude the Examiner's previous interpretation of the claims as being obvious.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13-15, 17-18, 21-30, 32 and 34-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent 6,577,643 (Rai) in view of United States Patent 6,047,179 (Kirby). These grounds of rejection are traversed for the reasons set forth above that each of the independent claims has been amended to recite "the user is anonymous and there is no roaming agreement or contract with the packet data network for the user to obtain the connection thereto." Therefore, it is believed that the Applicants have addressed the Examiner's

"Response to Arguments" and that the outstanding grounds of rejection have been overcome.

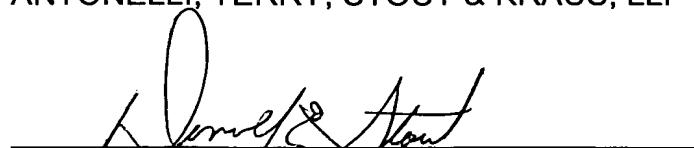
Claims 4, 11-12, 16, 19-20, and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Rai and Kirby further in view of United States Patent 5,930,777 (Barber). These grounds of rejection are submitted to be overcome in view of the foregoing amendments since Barber's disclosure that each service unit is encoded with a different random number does not cure the deficiencies noted above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in connection for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (0173.37066X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Donald E. Stout
Registration No. 26,422
(703) 312-6600

Attachments

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